Setting up of new Postal Divisions in Punjab

4505. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government hvae formulated any proposal for setting up of new Postal Divisions in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details of the postal divisions set up in the State during 1994-95; and

(c) the new Postal Divisions proposed to be set up in the Border Areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No postal Division have been set up during 1994-95 in Punjab.

(c) There is no proposal to set up new postal division in border areas.

Waiting list for telephone connections in Punjab

4506. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons who are in the waiting list for allotment of telephone connections in Punjab, as on the 31s March, 1995. disrict-wise/category-wise;

(b) what is the number of persons who have been allotted telephone connections in the State during 1993-94 and 1994-95, district--wise/category-wise; and

(c) what effective measures Government propose to take for allotment of telephone connectios to all the wait-listed persons in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The district-wise information is given in Annexure. (*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 91]

(c) National Telecom Policy, 1994 envisages to provide telephone connections on demand by 1997. The expansion of telephone network in Punjab is being planned accordingly. A target of providing 140000 new connections has been fixed for Punjab for the year 1995-96.

Reduction of Class III and IV employees in the Department of Posts

4507. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Class III and Class IV employees in the Department of Posts in the country has been reduced during the last four years;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the reductions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in the number of senior officials in the Department of Posts

4508. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of senior officers at the level of Director and above in the Department of Posts has increased during the last four years. and

(b) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.